

**Active Essex Foundation (AEF) Thurrock Sports and Life Skills**

**Funding guidance 2025/2028**

This guidance document sets out the Active Essex Foundation (AEF) Sports and Youth Crime Prevention programme and information on the new Thurrock Sports and Lifeskills funding opportunity.

**OVERVIEW**

AEF Sports and Youth Crime Prevention programme.

Webpage link: [**Active Essex Foundation | Home**](https://www.activeessexfoundation.org/)

The Active Essex Foundation (AEF) is unique charity, leveraging the power of sports and physical activities to address factors that can lead to some young people at greater exposure or involved in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), criminality, exploitation, drugs and County Lines along with other associated rick factors and harms. Sport is increasingly recognised as having a role in prevention and early intervention work with children at risk of, or already involved in, offending behaviour. Although sport was unlikely to stop offending by itself, it has the potential to make a positive contribution.

AEF working with partner agencies uses sporting activities blended with mentoring, volunteering and training as a vehicle to address problem behaviour and as a diversionary tool to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and aimed to increase the capability of sport sector delivery organisations with training, guidance and support.

Here are our key points:

**Mission and Approach**

* **Collaboration**: AEF works with Locally Trusted Organisations (LTOs) and various agencies, including Community Safety Partnerships (CSP), Education, Public Health, Children in Care and the Youth Justice Sector (YJS).
* **Engagement and Intervention**: Using sports as tools for engagement, prevention and intervention to reduce youth inequalities and young people’s exposure or involvement in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), exploitation, gangs, substance misuse, youth criminality that may result in a criminal conviction, increased trauma, poor mental health and wellbeing and prevent them from reaching their full potential now and in the future.
* **Experience and research:** AEF knows from experience and evidence and its understanding of the challenges faced by young people in Greater Essex is profound. Poverty and social deprivation significantly impact their quality of life, limiting access to essential support and services. This situation often exposes them to hidden harms and youth criminality, including anti-social behaviour (ASB), knife crime, violence, county lines, child criminal exploitation, and gangs.

**AEF team and partner agencies:**

* **Expertise**: AEF works very closely with youth criminal justice agencies, education, public health, children’s services, health and the community and voluntary sector.
* **Community-Based Programmes**: Over the past three years, AEF has developed with LTOs and partners a high number of community-based youth intervention and prevention programmes, engaging over 15,000 young people across Southend, Essex, and Thurrock. Including its successful Sports and Life Skills referral based programme with Essex and Thurrock Youth Justice sector (YJS).

**Targeted Provisions**

* **Focus on Vulnerable Youth (but not exclusive to)**: The programmes target young people at greater risk of or involved in child exploitation, criminality, and those on the cusps or involved in ASB. Along with programmes that looking at deterrence to reduce ‘missing’ from home/care episodes that can be an indicator for other factors.
* **Mental Health Support**: Addressing poor mental health resulting from contextual safeguarding, Trauma, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), neurodiverse challenges, and other factors.

**Partnerships and Impact**

**Understanding Communities**: AEF collaborates with specialist LTOs and partners to better understand and support communities.

* **Range of Activities**: Offering various sports and activities blended with mentoring, youth training and volunteering opportunities (SportsPlus model) to engage young people and reduce risks such as sexual or criminal exploitation, gangs, knife crime, and county lines by giving them a new focus and diversionary activities.

**Vulnerable Youth**

* **High-Risk Factors**: unemployment, family breakdown, addiction, and poor educational attainment create environments where gangs and exploitative individuals thrive.
* **Need for Support**: These vulnerable young people require specialised intervention and prevention projects to provide positive activities and trusted adult support.

**AEF's Approach**

* **Diversionary Activities**: Offering engaging activities in local communities to divert young people from negative influences.
* **Positive Role Models**: Providing access to trusted adults and positive peers to help young people make better life choices.

**Impact**

* **Breaking the Cycle**: By addressing these issues, AEF aims to break the cycle of deprivation and criminality, helping young people to thrive and reach their full potential.

AEF's work is crucial in creating safer and more supportive environments for young people.

AEF has a holistic approach to supporting young people through sports, physical activities, mentoring, and other key elements.

Here are the main points:

**Key Benefits**

1. **Crime and ASB Reduction**: Providing new opportunities to reduce and/or prevent crime and anti-social behaviour.
2. **Health and Activity**: Inspiring young people to lead healthier, happier lives and increase their understanding of healthy relationships and unhealthy relationships to make positive choices.
3. **Aspirations**: Raising young people’s aspirations, confidence and skills.
4. **Community Cohesion**: Strengthening community ties and addressing inequalities.
5. **Mental and Physical Well-being**: Improving overall health and well-being in the context of youth crime and exploitation.

**Approach**

* **Expert Organisation**: AEF works in Essex, Southend and Thurrock, engaging young people involved in or at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System or becoming victims to exploitation to provide intervention and prevention programmes.
* **Network of LTOs**: Collaborating with LTO’s to deliver targeted intervention and prevention programmes.
* **Long-Term Engagement**: working with statutory agencies, community and voluntary sector and LTOs to offer clear intervention pathways that maintain young people's interest over time to maintain their involvement and reduce their risks.

**Additional Elements**

* **Youth Volunteering**: Opportunities for volunteering and gaining awards and qualifications.
* **Mentoring**: Providing support through mentoring (one to one and/or group support) and other key elements.
* **Education attendance and attainment:** support young people to reach their full potential in secondary and further education and increasement in attendance.
* **Employment and Training**: Facilitating entry into employment or training, gaining awards and qualifications, guided support and career advice.

**Current programmes offer within Thurrock**

Thurrock Sports and Life Skills programme 2022 to 2025

The Thurrock Sports and Life Skills programme from 2022 to 2025 has been a significant initiative by the AEF. Here are the key highlights:

Programme Overview

* **Collaborative Efforts**: AEF has established connections with various agencies, including Active Essex, Youth Justice Services, Education, and Thurrock Community Safety Partnership.
* **Grant Opportunities**: Launching grant opportunities for LTOs to provide holiday and term-time provisions, training, and network meetings.
* **Referral Programme**: In partnership with Thurrock Youth Justice, AEF offers a Sports and Life Skills referral programme for young people to receive one-on-one or community support.

Achievements

* **Pilot Project**: Last year, AEF launched a pilot project funded by private and statutory sources, enabling specialist LTOs to create innovative programmes in their communities.
* **Success and Expansion**: The pilot project's success has paved the way for a new three-year funding opportunity in partnership with The London Gateway Freeport Community Investment Fund that has been created by DP World through a joint levy contribution with the Thames Freeport occupants at London Gateway Logistics Park.

Goals

* **Sharing and Learning**: Bringing together partners and LTOs to share knowledge and collaborate on projects. Training and network meetings.
* **Support for Young People**: Providing targeted support through referrals and community-based programmes with partner agencies and LTOs

This initiative aims to create a positive impact on young people's lives by leveraging sports and life skills to address various challenges.

**Partnership working and understanding the needs of Thurrock and its young people.**

Several of our Thurrock partners have their own adult and youth intervention and prevention agendas and delivery plans which highlight their local community priorities, which throughout our programmes we aim to support. Please consider in your application, how your provision can help support their priorities

**Thurrock Community Safety Partnership. (CSP)**

[**Thurrock Community Safety Partnership | Community safety partnership | Thurrock Council**](https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership/thurrock-community-safety-partnership)

Thurrock CSP has a duty by law to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and related behaviours affecting the local environment, including misuse of drugs and alcohol.

Thurrock CSP priorities for 2025/2026 are:

1. Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse: in line with the Domestic Abuse Duty and needs assessment.
2. Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls – including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims.
3. Reduce harm to and safeguard vulnerable people – with a focus on addressing hate crime, and education of schools and communities.
4. Engaging with residents to Tackle Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguard victims with a focus on arson related ASB, off road motor vehicles and fly tipping
5. Preventing Serious Violence: Tackling the causes of drug driven violent crime in our communities (including robbery) through driving down gang related activity including offensive weapons

**Thurrock Youth Justice Team (YJS)**

Youth Justice Services play a crucial role in supporting young people who have been involved in, or on the periphery of, criminal behaviour. They offer tailored interventions to help children understand the impact of their actions and make positive changes. Services include direct case management, mentoring, educational and mental health support, aiming to reduce reoffending and promote rehabilitation.

YJS are multi agency teams that provide direct support to children and their families helping to create a supportive environment for young people to thrive. By addressing underlying issues and providing guidance, YJS help children build a brighter future away from crime, fostering safer communities for everyone.

**Children’s Services Thurrock 2021 to 2026 Strategy**

[**Thurrock Council - Bright Futures Children's Partnership Strategy, 2021-2026**](https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/brighter-futures-strategy-2021-2026-v01.pdf)



**Children in Care**

[**Keeping children safe | Thurrock Council**](https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/keeping-children-safe)



**Thurrock Sports and Life Skills 2025 to 2028 funding opportunity**

AEF has been awarded funding from The London Gateway Freeport Community Investment Fund has been created by DP World through a joint levy contribution with the Thames Freeport occupants at London Gateway Logistics Park and the Place Partnership Expansion to coordinate with partner agencies the opportunity for Thurrock Community Sports and mentor providers/LTOs to be funded for Sports and LifeSkills prevention and intervention projects.

The funding is available initially for a single year with reapplication required for future years (subject to regular reviews, data and outcomes)

***See FAQ sheet for guidance.***

Year one: September 2025 to August 2026 is set at 100% funding allocation to successful LTOs.

Year Two: September 2026 to August 2027 is set at 50% funding allocation and LTOs are expected to seek and secure match funding. Support and guidance on obtaining match funding can be provided.

Year Three: September 2027 to August 2028 is set at 25% funding allocation and LTOs are expected to seek and secure match funding. Support and guidance can be provided.

Should a project not apply in year two or three, the funding will be re-awarded to new projects.

In the case of an LTO awarded funding in year one and not meeting the full requirements of the funding allocation, data return or not able to demonstrate key outcomes on achievements, no further funding will be issued for year two or three.

**Criteria for applications**

The AEF Sports and LifeSkills grant funding will be open to all LTOs**,** regardless of their main project location. However, the project must take place in Thurrock. We are not able to fund projects outside of Thurrock Council boundaries.

In particular we are looking for LTOs who can provide projects within the key categories set out within our partners agenda and offer projects in key locations such as *Tilbury, Grays and West Thurrock*. However other locations will be considered and scored on areas of need and/or meeting one or more of the partners outcomes above.

Applications will need to meet some of the following to be considered for review and scored accordingly by our panel.

These objectives for the Thurrock Sports and Life Skills programme are comprehensive and aim to address various challenges faced by young people. Here’s a summary of the key points:

**Objectives- Provide projects within a SportsPlus model.**

See StreetGames SportPlus model- Theory of change research for universal, secondary and tertiary cohort [StreetGames Theory of Change - StreetGames](https://www.streetgames.org/research-and-insights/streetgames-theory-of-change/) (Click link for more information)

1. **Targeted Prevention and Intervention**: Support young people aged 11-24 facing personal or community challenges, particularly those in poverty or deprivation in particular areas listed within the Thurrock 1-4 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) indices. See Sport England link for information on IMD [Map explorer | Sport England](https://www.sportengland.org/research-and-data/tools/local-area-insights/map-explorer) and Active Essex [Data and Insights | Active Essex](https://www.activeessex.org/local-delivery-pilot/data-and-insight/#:~:text=Wards%20in%20IMD%20Deciles%201,%E2%80%93%20data%20only%20_compressed%20(1)) map and information.
2. **Understanding Vulnerabilities**: Educate young people about the risks of exploitation, county lines, gangs, and risk-taking behaviours, which can impact their education and future employment opportunities.
3. **Mental Health and Well-being**: Promote positive mental health and help young people make safe choices in the context of youth crime and exploitation.
4. **Risk Awareness**: Increase understanding of risk-taking behaviours and equip young people with the confidence to resist peer pressure, particularly regarding knife crime, drugs, and gang activities.
5. **Resilience Building**: Help young people cope with trauma and adverse childhood experiences without resorting to negative influences.
6. **Volunteering and Qualifications**: Provide opportunities for volunteering and gaining sports coaching qualifications to enhance educational achievements.
7. **Community and Police Cohesion**: Foster better communication between young people and authorities.
8. **Raising Aspirations**: Encourage young people to aim higher in their education and future careers to prevent them becoming or remaining NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) Research highlights– “becoming and remaining NEET can result in being more likely to have a criminal record. There are a number of risk factors and characteristics that increase the likelihood of young people becoming NEET and many of these are consistent with the risk factors associated with violence” Risk factors for being a NEET Young person report [OVERLA2.pdf](https://youthfuturesfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/OVERLA2.pdf). 2023).
9. **Safe Environment**: Create spaces where young people feel they belong and can engage in positive activities with trusted adult support.

These goals are essential for creating a supportive and enriching environment for young people.

The essential criteria for projects and applications under the Thurrock Sports and Life Skills programme are designed to ensure that the initiatives are impactful and well-aligned with the programme's goals. Here are the key points:

1. **Targeted Support**: Projects must support young people considered as secondary or tertiary, known to agencies due to various risk factors. Universal sports offers or paid memberships are not eligible. We will not be able to review any applications that offer ‘doorstep’ sports only (Universal offer) or paid memberships.
2. **Proven Track Record**: Applicants should have a history of working with young people in their community.
3. **Community Understanding**: Applicants must understand their community's existing strengths and help embed a sense of ownership and empowerment among young people.
4. **Partnerships**: Established or emerging partnerships with statutory agencies, community, or voluntary sectors are required.
5. **Non-Profit Status**: Applicants must be non-profit organisations, including limited companies, foundations, charities, or CIC/CIOs*. Statutory services are not eligible to apply but we welcome partnership working with LTOs and statutory services.*
6. **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)**: All programmes must use the AEF monitoring and evaluation toolkit to track outcomes such as attendance, engagement, learning attitudes, and behaviour reduction. Within your budget you must allow for 10% of your project cost to cover MEL (including admin time)
7. **Programme Duration**: Minimum delivery of 44 weeks from September 2025 to August 2026 (across a year).
8. **Session Length**: Weekly sessions of 2 hours plus minimum.
9. **Funding**: Maximum funding allocation is up to £8,500 per application, with potential for up to £10,000 based on the programme's scope and offering all elements of the funding criteria.
10. **Flexible Timing**: Projects can be during the day, after school, weekends, or evenings to suit the needs of the young people.
11. **Educaiton-Based Projects**: Allowed if accessible to all young people, not just those attending the school.
12. **Collaborative Delivery**: Providers can partner with other organisations to co-deliver programmes.
13. **Detached Youth Work**: Considered for funding.

This criteria ensures that funded projects are well-structured and capable of making a significant impact on the lives of young people which can be measured.

We are keen to see applications that focus on projects that support AEF and our partners priorities: Youth Justice, Children in Care and/or Thurrock Community Safety Partnership key objectives for example:

1. Projects for females to support reduction in Violence Against Woman and Girls agenda (VAWG) by providing a safe and welcoming environment where females can receive support, guidance, access to sports and physical activities alongside mentoring, training and volunteering opportunities.
2. Projects that support the reduction in young people becoming NEET status at a later stage or those who are categories as NEET to engage them in a programme that will support their opportunities to increase their skills, knowledge and access to learning, training or employment.
3. Projects that help to raise awareness and knowledge around preventing ASB, youth crime, exploitation and staying safe in their community and provide mentoring, sports and other activities.

**Each programme needs to offer the following:**

**Essential**:

Sports and Physical activities alongside mentoring and guided support

**Desirable:**

Life skills, volunteering and/or training opportunities, career signposting and support, routes into employment or apprenticeship.

Examples of previous funded projects (linked to youth crime and exploitation reduction/ prevention include:

* BoxSmart ‘on the ropes’ courses: boxing, kick boxing, martial arts with a blend of mentoring, topical discussions and education themes. (AEF programme available for delivery)
* Girls Inspired courses with a blend of mentoring, topical discussions and education themes. (AEF programme available for delivery)
* Combat sports projects
* Community basketball and football projects
* Multi-sports sessions
* Drama and arts projects linked to physical activities
* Filming and music programmes linked to physical activities
* Referral based programmes focusing on mentoring and sports
* Neurodiverse specific programmes.

**Successful project applications and funding will look to achieve the following objectives and outcomes** (not exclusive as projects will vary on intervention and cohort of young people targeted):

1. **Engagement and Inclusion**: Reaching out to young people facing greater challenges and providing them with new experiences and a sense of belonging.
2. **Health and Well-being**: Focusing on improving both physical and mental health. Linked to youth crime and exploitation.
3. **Youth Empowerment**: Giving young people a platform to voice their opinions and be heard.
4. **Safety and Support**: Collaborating with partner agencies to reduce anti-social behaviour, exploitation, and risk-taking by providing safe environments.
5. **Educational Support**: Aiding in improving educational attendance and facilitating transitions from NEET to work placements or employment.
6. **Accessibility and Participation**: Reducing barriers to physical activity and increasing participation in sports.
7. **Skill Development**: Offering opportunities for teamwork, communication, and negotiation skills.
8. **Confidence Building**: Enhancing confidence and self-esteem among young people.
9. **Relationship Building**: Fostering positive relationships between young people and trusted adults.
10. **Community Engagement**: Reducing isolation and improving community involvement.
11. **Health Awareness**: Increasing understanding of health benefits and promoting healthy lifestyles and healthy relationships.
12. **Volunteering Opportunities**: Creating opportunities for youth volunteering.

The application review process for project funding is quite thorough and ensures that only well-prepared and impactful projects are selected.

1. **Review Panel**: The panel will include representatives from Active Essex Foundation (AEF), Active Essex (AE), Youth Justice Service (YJS), Community Safety Partnership (CSP), community, voluntary and private sector representation and other agencies.
2. **Criteria for Review**: Applications will be assessed and scored based on:
	* Needs of the targeted young people based on SportPlus/ Theory of change model.
	* Community served and priority areas.
	* Intended aims and outcomes.
	* Expertise and data on deprivation, educational challenges, and youth crime rates.
	* Opportunities for volunteering and training
	* Sustainability in the context of youth engagement, the project and future plans
	* Growth and future development plans for year 2 & 3.
3. **Targeting and Monitoring**: Projects must target the agreed cohort of young people and monitor their progress.
4. **Track Record**: Preference for applications with a proven history of targeted interventions and partnership working.
5. **Standards and Policies**: Organisations must meet minimum operating standards and have all necessary policies and safeguarding procedures in place.
6. **Participation in Meetings and Training**: Attendance at AEF Thurrock Sports and Youth Crime Network meetings and required training courses is *mandatory.*
7. **Programme Start and Duration**: Successful projects must start by September 2025 and run for *at least 44 weeks* during the school year, with potential for additional holiday sessions. (subject to confirmation)
8. **Match Funding**: can be used to enhance your application offer or extend the provision into future years or locations.
9. **Publication of Programme Details**: Dates and venues will be listed on the AEF website and other community platforms, with information sent to all agencies for referrals.

This structured approach ensures that projects are well-aligned with the goals of supporting young people and addressing community needs.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL):**

All successful applications will be required to evaluate their project using the AEF toolkit. Full support and guidance will be given. Along with training webinars and face to face sessions.

* Provider case study with attendance, engagement, behavioural change and mentoring hours- Essential
* Young person’s case study- two per a 12-week programme- Essential
* Beginning and end young person’s surveys (where required)

See [Active Essex Foundation | Monitoring & Evaluation Toolkit](https://www.activeessexfoundation.org/get-involved/monitoring-evaluation-toolkit) for guidance.

**Key Dates:**

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| **Application opens: 12th June 2025**  |
| Closing date of application: 29th June 2025 (midnight) |
| Panel review: Week beginning 30th June to 18th July 2025  |
| Successful applications informed from: 21st July 2025  |
| Unsuccessful application can request feedback from: 30th July 2025  |
| Projects started within September 2025   |

**Grant payments (subject to change)**

First grant payment for successful applications (subject to all paperwork checks): August 2025. 50% of grant

Second grant payment (subject to all paperwork and data outcome checks): April 2026. 50% of grant

TOP TIP: To make the grant process and payment of grants, please ensure you have sent AEF your most recent Public Liability (minimum 10 million), copy of your signed and dated Safeguarding policy. Signed and dated Risk Assessment relating to this project to admin@activeessexfoundation.org

**Application process:**

Please read Frequency Asked Questions sheet (FAQ) before applying or contacting the team. As the FAQ sheet has lots of useful information that can support your application.

If you wish to discuss an application before submitting, please email: admin@activeessexfoundation.org and someone from the AEF Sports and Youth Crime Prevention team will be in touch.

Complete the AEF Thurrock Sports and LifeSkills Application form and budget and submit online. [AEF Thurrock Sports and Life Skills funding application 2025 to 2026](https://wkf.ms/3RWjxC2)

Further information regarding AEF Sports and Youth Crime Prevention programme and projects can be found on:[**Active Essex Foundation | Home**](https://www.activeessexfoundation.org/)

**Definitions:**

**Secondary:** Targeted cohort – young people identified with challenging circumstances and vulnerabilities. Often these young people will already be victims or perpetrators of low-level anti-social behaviour and crime, often having already received out of court cautions. This cohort are likely to be on the cusp of entering the system and known to agencies such as police, probation, education, and social care. Taking part in sport encourages a pro-social approach and is carefully structured to the needs of the young person to build positive behaviours and stop the young person in this cohort escalating to gangs and more serious crime and youth violence.

**Tertiary:** Intense cohort – these are complex and highly vulnerable young people already directly involved in serious offending, including offenders released from prison and Youth Offender Institutions. This cohort will access sport from specialist providers combining it with one to one mentoring and small group work and following a multi-agency plan to provide a structured routine that creates deep relationships in a safe space that promotes physical and emotional well-being.



**Youth Anti-Social Behaviour** (ASB) refers to a broad range of actions by young people that violate societal norms or the rights of others, causing harassment, alarm, or distress. This can range from minor acts like temper tantrums or lying to more serious transgressions like arson or assault, potentially involving the criminal justice system.

**Contextual Safeguarding**: Youth contextual safeguarding is an approach that understands and responds to the significant harm young people experience outside their families, such as in their neighbourhoods, schools, and online. It recognizes that relationships beyond the family can involve violence and abuse, requiring a broader understanding of the risks young people face.

**Adverse Childhood Experiences** (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood. ACEs can include violence, abuse, and growing up in a family with mental health or substance use problems.

**NEET**: "Not in Education, Employment, or Training," refers to young people who are not actively engaged in these three areas. This term is used to identify a specific group of young people who may face challenges in accessing the labour market or further education and training opportunities.

**County Lines** “County lines” is a violent and exploitative form of drug distribution. A common feature of county lines is the exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults who are instructed to deliver and/or store drugs, and associated money or weapons, to dealers or drug users, locally or in other counties. [Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines (accessible version) - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines)

**SportPlus:** A comprehensive approach to using sports and physical activities as a means to support young people who may have various vulnerabilities and needs. The SportPlus principle emphasises the importance of tailoring activities to address specific issues faced by these individuals, ensuring that the environment, timing, and the skills of those involved are all carefully considered. Along with training for young people, volunteering and competences of experienced coaches and mentors. Further information can be found on StreetGames ([StreetGames Theory of Change - StreetGames](https://www.streetgames.org/research-and-insights/streetgames-theory-of-change/)) and Gov.uk ([Using a SportPlus approach to improve support and outcomes for young people in or at risk of entering the Youth Justice System | Local Government Association](https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/using-sportplus-approach-improve-support-and-outcomes-young-people-or-risk-entering)).



**Indices**

* **IMD Deciles:**

The IMD (Index of Multiple Deprivation) is a measure of deprivation used in England to identify areas with high levels of economic, social, and housing issues. It ranks areas from most to least deprived.

* **Thurrock's Deprivation:**

Thurrock is a local authority in England, and its wards are ranked within the IMD deciles to indicate the level of deprivation in each area.

* **High Deprivation Areas (1-4):**

Wards in deciles 1-4 are considered to have high levels of deprivation, with darker shades on the map representing higher levels and lighter shades representing lower levels within that range.

* **Thurrock's Overall Ranking:**

Thurrock's overall ranking on the IMD for local authorities in England is 217 out of 349, [according to Thurrock Council](https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/JSNA-2012-pt2.pdf).

* **Other Factors:**

Thurrock has a diverse community, with a significant portion of the population (27.5%) in the 0-19 age group. A significant portion of children in Thurrock (at least 20%) live in poverty, which can impact their health, education, and other aspects of their lives.